Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEMP, CG

SUBJECT: GECAMINES EXPANSION AND PURCHASING PLANS

REF: LUBUMBASHI 0393

- 1. EMBASSY COMMENDS CONSULATE FOR EXCELLENT REFERENCED TRADE OPPORTUNITY REPORT.
- 2. TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM MILEAGE FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS FROM GECAMINES EXPANSION PROGRAM, EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING COURSES OF ACTION AND GUIDANCE:

A. WHEN GOZ APPROVES EXPANSION PLAN AND IT IS
MADE AVAILABLE, SUGGEST PREPARATION DETAILED
TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY FOR WASHINGTON SOONEST WITH
COPY TO EMBASSY. MESSAGE SHOULD ASCERTAIN AS PRECISELY AS POSSIBLE
ALL SOURCES PROGRAM FINANCING AND INCLUDE, WHERE POSSIBLE,
AREAS OF BUSINESS OPEN TO AMERICAN BIDDING. WHERE, FOR
EXAMPLE, TIED PROCUREMENT ITEMS ARE INVOLVED, THROUGH
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EXTENSION SUPPLIERS CREDITS AND TIED LOANS BY FOREIGN

COMPETITION, THERE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR US BUSINESS. THUS NEED TO SEPARATE CHAFF FROM WHEAT.

- B. ENDEAVOR SECURE COPIES ALL TENDERS AND EXPEDITE TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON WITH APPROPRIATE SUMMARIES WHERE NECESSARY.
- C. IMPORTANT TO ASCERTAIN ITEMS GECAMINES DESIRES TO PURCHASE WITH EXIMBANK CREDITS. FYI EXIMBANK DOES NOT SPECIFY CATEGORIES OF GOODS BORROWER SHOULD PURCHASE SO LONG AS THEY ARE BOUGHT IN THE US. WOULD BE USEFULL IN THIS CONNECTION TO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING INTENDED USES SUCH EXIMBANK LOANS AND TO ENCOURAGE GECAMINES USE LOANS TO BUY GOODS IN WHICH US SUPPLIERS LEAST COMPETITIVE. COMMERCE'S BUREAU OF COMPETITIVE ASSESSMENT MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT.
- D. SINCE GECAMINES FINANCING POSSIBLY 50 PERCENT ITS EXPANSION PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO JUNE 1973 IMF REPORT, WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO NAIL DOWN EQUIPEMTN TURNKEY PROJECTS, ETC. TO BE PURCHASED WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES. THIS SHOULD POSSIBLY BE AREA FOR GREATEST US BUSINESS CONCERTRATION AND SALES POTENTIAL.
- E. WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, FUNDS FROM EUROPEAN INVEST-MENT BANK PERMIT US FIRMS TO BID OR ARE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FINANCED BY EIB RESERVED FOR EUROPEAN COMPANIES EXCLUSIVELY?
- F. COMMENT: US COMPETITIVE POSITION HAS BEEN
 GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY TWO DEVALUATION US DOLLAR AND
 CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS OTHER COUNTRIES. AS AGAINST
 EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE SUPPLIERS, US GOODS AND EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY FROM 19 TO 47 PERCENT MORE COMPETITIVE THAN
 TWO YEARS AGO. THIS FACTOR SHOULD BE CONSTANTLY
 UNDERLINED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GECAMINES; LATTER
 MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT CAN OBTAIN
 LARGER VOLUME QUALITY GOODS AND EFFICIENT AND
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PRODUCTIVE EQUIPMENT FROM US AT BEST MARKET PRICE. THAT GECAMINES FAVORING PURCHASE FINNISH FLASH SMELTER SHOULD NOT DETER CONSULATE FROM INDICATING THAT PRICE, QUALITY, DELIVERY, ETC. SIMILAR US EQUIPMENT WORTH CONSIDERING BEFORE GECAMINES MAKES FINAL DECISION. CONTRARY TO GECAMINES BELIEFS, US IS IN STRONG COMPETITIVE STANCE AND US FIRMS CAN MAKE GOOD SHOWING PROVIDED THEY ARE ALERTED TO THE

DETAILS OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAM AND PROVIDED THEY ARE NOT EXCLUDED FROM BIDDING BECAUSE OF TIE-PROCUREMENT AND OTHER LOAN ARRANGEMENTS, ETC. US SEEKS NOT ONLY THAT PORTION OF BUSINESS IT WILL FIND THROUGH EXIMBANK BUT ESPECIALLY LARGER TRANCHE FINANCED BY GECAMINES AND OTHERS. THE BIGGER THE PIECE OF BUSINESS US INITIALLY OBTAINS, THE LARGER FOLLOW-ON ORDERS FOR SPARES AND SERVICING IN THE FUTURE COULD RESULT.

G. RE YOUR 0369 AND USDOC 15887: COMMERCE MAY BE ABLE ORGANIZE MINING EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION TO VISIT LUBUMBASHI EARLIER THATN APRIL 1974 SCHEDULING IF SITUATION WARRANTED BY IMMEDIACY LARGE POTENTIAL SALES OPPORTUNITIES ASIDE FROM EQUIPMENT TO BE FINANCED BY EXIMBANK. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. VANCE

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